less-valued positions at the workplace. It also says women unemployment rates have almost always been higher than that of men.

(b) With a view to ensure gender equality at the workplace, the Minimum Wage Act, 1948; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; etc. have been legislated in the country. The State Governments are empowered to initiate action against the violation of these Acts, whenever required.

House building loan/assistance to beedi workers

3120. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the new housing policy to provide house building loan to beedi workers from Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof showing the eligibility criteria and the rate of interest on house building loan;

(c) whether Government are running or propose to start any scheme to provide assistance to beedi workers in house building;

(d) if so, the details thereof showing the number of beedi workers benefited by the scheme State-wise including the State of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is no separate provision in the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for Beedi Workers. As per the existing Scheme the member of the Employees' Provident Fund including beedi workers with five years membership are entitled to avail benefits of withdrawal for the purchase or construction of dwelling house/flat including the acquisition of a suitable site for the purpose.

The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund Scheme (EPF) in its 160th meeting held on 28.03.2003 has approved the Housing Scheme for the members of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme (EPF). The said scheme provides that the interest on loan will not be more than the average market rate at which housing finance is available and shall be at a rate agreed between Employees' Provident Fund Organization

and the Housing Finance Agency.

(c) Yes Sir. Under the Integrated Housing Scheme (IHS) a subsidy is provided for construction of houses to Beedi Workers at the rate of Rs.20,000/- per house or 50% of the cost of the house, whichever is less.

(d) District-wise/State-wise number of houses sanctioned during the last four years for beedi workers under BWWF are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State/district	No. of houses sanctioned during 1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9542	2759	428	315
2.	Assam	47	03	51	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	284	306	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	52	Nil
5.	Karnataka	39	03	83	857
6.	Kerala	Nil	102	680	687
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2701	Nil	799	Nil
8.	Maharashtra	06	10,516	444	Nil
9.	Orissa	2953	3160	2530	1830
10.	Rajasthan	01	02	03	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	01	961	62	1638
12.	Uttar Pradesh	18	116	27	104
13.	West Bengal	350	197	549	Nil
14.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	311
	GRAND TOTAL	15,658	18,103	6,014	5,742

(e) Not applicable.

Exodus of labourers

†3121. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a migration of labourers from one State to another;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.